sea conditions were not conducive for carrying out such studies during the period of observation, it is now proposed to carry out sampling cruises at the site of the archaeological findings after October, 2001, subject to the weather conditions permitting.

(e) The proposed study would be conducted by a team of scientists drawn from National Institute of Ocean Technology, National Institute of Oceanography and other organizations which are involved in such activities. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) would also be associated with this study.

Complimentary Rail Passes

2838. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms and procedure for issuing complimentary rail passes;

(b) to whom such complimentary passes have been issued and when; and

(c) whether Government would reconsider to issue complimentary passes to chieftains of various religious sects, such as the Shankaracharya etc. the recipients of Bharat Ratna and the dignitaries having excellent performance in their respective fields; if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Complimentary Passes are issued to the following categories as per the schemes announced from time to time and also under discretionary powers of Minister of Railways:—

I. CARD PASSES

(1) Freedom Fighters.

(2) Arjuna Awardees/Olympic Medalists/Asian and Commonwealth Gold Medalists/Dronacharya Awardees.

(3) Winners of Chakra series Gallantry Awards (Defence).

(4) Winners of President's Police Medal for Gallantry and Police Medal for Gallantry (Police).

(5) Presidents/Secretaries of National Sports Federations of India, Indian Olympics Association and State Olympic Associations affiliated to Indian Olympic Association.

(6) Ex. MRs/MOS(R)s/DMRs.

(7) Non-official Members of Hindi Salahakar Samiti.

(8) Eminent persons/Organisations engaged in social/cultural/ educational/sports welfare activities and others on medical grounds, etc. under the discretionary powers of Minister for Railways.

Note:- The issue of Complimentary card passes under the discretionary powers has presently been stopped due to difficult financial position faced by Railways.

II. CHEQUE PASSES:

(1) Licensed Porters.

(2) Individuals and organisations engaged in social, cultural, educational, sports and welfare activities under the discretionary powers of Minister for Railways, Minister of State for Railway and Railway Board, as per guidelines evolved by the Ministry of Railways.

(c) There is presently no proposal to change the existing policy.

Survey Work of Talcher-Bimalagarh Rail Line

2839. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when Talcher-Bimalagarh proposed Rail Line survey work will be completed;

(b) whether Railway authority know that above proposed rail line will go through Tribal, SC and OBC area of Sundargarh, Deogarh and Angul districts, if so, whether authority will recommend as special case to Government to take up work of this rail line during current plan; and

(c) what amount of revenues S.E. Railway is getting from (towards goods Train) Talcher Station every year and whether Government propose to upgrade this station during current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) The survey work for a new line between Talcher and Bimalagarh has been completed and the survey report is under finalisation. Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey results are finalised.